

IN THE ABSTRACT

On page 34 of the specification, cancel the abstract in its entirety and substitute:

ABSTRACT

A method of reducing the cost of transmitting data from a portable or mobile hand-held data terminal to a remote data receiving station over a wireless communications network by determining the associated data transmission cost for each communication link between the terminal and the station; and selecting a data transmission link from the terminal to the station such that data transmission cost is minimized.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 45-57 and add the following claims:

- 58. A method of reducing the cost of transmitting data from a mobile terminal to a remote data receiving station over a communications network including a plurality of communication links between the mobile data terminal and the remote data receiving station, at least one link being a wireless communications link, each link having an associated data transmission cost, the method comprising:

determining the associated data transmission cost for each communication link between the mobile terminal and the remote data receiving station;

selecting a data transmission link from the mobile terminal to the remote data receiving station such that data transmission cost is minimized; and transmitting the data from the terminal to the station along the selected data transmission link.

59. A method as defined in claim 58, wherein the network includes a first transmission point, a second reception point, a plurality of intermediate transfer points, and a communications link having an associated cost factor linking respective pairs of points, further comprising routing the transmission from the first point to the second point via one or more transfer points selected to minimize the cost of the associated communication link.
60. A method as defined in claim 58, further comprising determining the priority of the information and selecting a physical interface for downloading low priority information on the communications link between the terminal and a cradle for the terminal.
61. A method as defined in claim 58, wherein a first communication link between the mobile terminal and the communications network is a wireless radio frequency link.

62. A method as defined in claim 58, wherein the communications network includes an Internet site on the network with a user accessible data file having a network address, and a network link arranged to receive access requests from users elsewhere on the network to provide access to the data file.
63. A method as defined in claim 62, wherein the network link includes a cellular telephone network.
64. A method as defined in claim 61, wherein the wireless communication network includes a local area network (LAN).
65. A method as defined in claim 59, wherein the mobile terminal is configured to fit the palm of the user's hand and record data relating to its immediate environment.
66. A method as defined in claim 61, further comprising ascertaining the specific geographical location of each mobile terminal and employing a central tracking system to record the location of each of the mobile terminals at a given time.
67. A method as defined in claim 66, further comprising providing a central site on the Internet disclosing where various mobile units are located.

68. A method as defined in claim 58, further comprising recording an image using a image capture device in the terminal, encoding the captured image as an image data signal, and transmitting the image data signal to a base station for subsequently distributing the image.
69. A method as defined in claim 67, further comprising recording an image from the environment of the terminal using an image capture device in the terminal, wherein the terminal includes server software allowing creation of a web site at the terminal.
70. A recorded sounds from the method as defined in claim 69, wherein the web site at the terminal includes environment of the terminal together with text input from the terminal keyboard.
71. A method as defined in claim 69, further comprising storing the image data signals and allowing users to access the storage site utilizing a pay – per-view type system whereby the user is billed for accessing the site.
72. A method of providing a communications network for prioritizing message transmission in the network while minimizing cost, the network including a mobile data terminal and a remote data receiving station, and a plurality of communication links between the terminal and the station, at least one link being

a wireless communication link, each link having an associated data transmission cost, the method comprising:

determining the urgency of the message to be transmitted and the associated data transmission cost for each communication link between mobile terminal and the remote data receiving station;

determining the data transmission links from the terminal to the remote data receiving station such that data transmission cost over the links is optimized if delay is unimportant, while disregarding the transmission cost if the message is urgent; and

transmitting the data from the terminal to the station along the selected data transmission link or links.

73. A method as defined in claim 72, wherein the communications network includes a cellular telephone network and a local area network (LAN), and further includes an Internet site with a user accessible data file having a network address, whereby network links are arranged to receive access requests from users elsewhere on the network to provide access to the data file.

74. A method as defined in claim 73, wherein the mobile unit is configured to fit the palm of the user's hand and includes a barcode reader.

75. A method of reducing the cost of transmitting data from a mobile terminal to a remote data receiving station over a communications network including a plurality of communication links between the terminal and the receiving station, at least one link being a wireless communications link, each link having an associated data transmission cost, the method comprising:

Conclude

determining the location of the mobile terminal;

broadcasting by the terminal the location of the mobile terminal;

determining the associated data transmission cost for each communication link between the mobile terminal and the remote data receiving station;

selecting a data transmission link from the mobile terminal to the remote data receiving station such that data transmission cost is minimized; and

transmitting the data from the terminal to the station along the selected data transmission link. — —